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Chair: Mr. Yohanna (Vice-Chair) ..... (Nigeria)

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In the absence of Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Mr. Yohanna (Nigeria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.18 a.m.

Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence (A/66/187)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/66/223)

(b) Science and technology for development (A/66/208)

(c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/66/220)

1. **Mr. Bandarin** (Assistant Director-General for Culture, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/187), said that in response to General Assembly resolution 65/166 to submit to it at its sixty-sixth session, UNESCO had prepared, in collaboration with 17 other agencies and entities, a progress report on its implementation and an assessment of the value and desirability of organizing a United Nations conference on culture and development. The report outlined recent developments that supported the integration of culture into development strategies and programmes, i.e. the culture and development window of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund of $95 million financed by Spain and implemented by many United Nations agencies under the coordination of UNESCO, and the Outcome Document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which emphasized the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the MDGs.

2. A United Nations conference on culture and development would inform Member States on how the mainstreaming of culture could make future policies and operations more effective, and on the need to address the nexus between culture and the three pillars of development. Shared policies and practices would lead to a shared vision.

3. The assessment proposed a two-day conference with some 500 high-level Government representatives, heads of intergovernmental entities, development banks, NGOs, civil society, foundations and the private sector. The budget estimate for such a meeting at United Nations Headquarters was $400,000 excluding travel. Alternatively, the conference could be hosted by a Member State. Its timing should provide ample time to take stock of its conclusions prior to the 2015 MDG milestone. A substantive outcome document should enhance understanding of the contributions of culture to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

4. **Mr. Pierre** (Chief, Policy Coordination Branch of the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing agenda item 21 (a), said that over recent decades, globalization had brought new opportunities to many countries but also greater vulnerability, economic insecurity and inequality: the richest 10 per cent of the world's adults owned 85 per cent of its wealth while the bottom half of the world adult population owned barely 1 per cent. The spread of the effects of the recent economic and financial crisis and recession was a prime example of increased interdependence between economies. Unprecedented stimulus measures had averted a deeper and prolonged global recession, but several countries were still coping with after-effects. Developing countries had witnessed significant risks associated with macroeconomic instability and financial volatility.

5. The Committee might wish to consider the implications of some of the report's key findings. Since sustained economic growth had been shown to be an effective means of reducing poverty, did international cooperation have a role to play in promoting sustained growth? Since sustained growth alone did not guarantee extending benefits to all citizens, what social policies would help vulnerable populations? What collective actions could national Governments, civil society and the private sector pursue in order to promote sustainable job creation? What role could international cooperation play? How could countries increase domestic coherence in order to foster sustained and inclusive growth? How could the international community promote coherence and coordination among monetary, fiscal, regulatory, trade, migration and technology-transfer policies? With a view to curbing the inequities of globalization, how could the international community agree upon a set of tools and standardized measurements and indicators of globalization?

6. Globalization presented many challenges but also many opportunities for fostering more inclusive and

sustainable development. The international community had a duty to seize those opportunities. The upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development provided one such key opportunity.

7. **Ms. Miroux** (Director, Technology and Logistics Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing agenda item 21 (b), said that for two years the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had been discussing several priority issues: new and emerging renewable energy technologies; technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water; improvements and innovations in financial mechanisms in particular for information and communications technologies; and assessing the impact of information and communication technologies on development.

8. The findings of the Commission's review of the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society had been published in the document "Implementing WSIS Outcomes: Experience to Date and Prospects for the Future". Following the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Commission and UNCTAD had engaged in consultations with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey on ways to implement the conference outcome.

9. The new UNCTAD publication series, Studies on Science, Technology and Innovation, examined priority themes discussed by the Commission. The first issue had provided an overview of challenges surrounding the use of renewable energy technologies to increase access to energy in rural areas, while another had been devoted to water management and how technologies could help to boost its productivity and resilience. The most recent issue, entitled "Applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation", stressed that policies for science and technology innovation and their impact on development were strengthened if the gender perspective was taken into account.

10. The new series of UNCTAD technology and innovation reports sought to address issues in science, technology and innovation important to developing countries; the 2011 report would deal in depth with policies in regard to renewable energy and its contribution to mitigating energy poverty in developing countries.

11. Several countries had already benefited from UNCTAD's science and technology innovation policy reviews, which were designed to help Governments ensure that their science, technology and innovation policies and programmes supported national development agendas. Two expert meetings held during 2010 had focused on conceptual and methodological issues in assessing such STI policies and the issue of related indicators; their findings would appear in a document, soon to be completed, that had been requested by the Commission.

12. In future, the Commission would turn its attention to 21st century concerns involving the uses of information technologies for development, to be addressed under two themes: "Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary ICT and science, technology, engineering and mathematical assets to address development issues, with particular reference to education", and "Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society". To contribute to a better understanding of those themes, UNCTAD would organize a panel meeting whose outcome would feed into the fifteenth session of the Commission.

13. **Mr. Vos** (Director, Development Policy and Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing agenda item 21 (c), said that low-income countries had access to concessional lending windows, and least-developed countries (LDCs) had access to a defined set of international support measures. However, there was no official United Nations definition of the group of middle-income countries. The World Bank's categorization defined them as all those with a per capita gross annual income roughly between $1,000 and $12,000, i.e. most developing and transition economies not categorized as least developed.

14. Many middle-income countries had weathered the global financial crisis better than developed economies, with average economic growth of nearly twice the world. However, they remained vulnerable to business cycles in the developed countries and to world financial and commodity market volatility.

15. Recent robust growth had helped reduce poverty in middle-income countries. Currently, middle-income countries were home to about 75 per cent of the world's poor and income inequality was more marked in them than in low- or high-income countries, a

worrisome trend that hindered growth. Persistently high inequality enhanced the risk of conflict and impeded progress towards the MDGs. Thus, the challenge for many Governments was to make economic and social policies more supportive of inclusive growth.

16. The Secretary-General's report (A/66/220) drew upon two surveys of stakeholders to assess the nature of development cooperation with middle-income countries. According to the surveys, the United Nations was widely represented in middle-income countries and worked largely to help Governments design policies aimed at promoting equity and responding to human rights violations and advocacy. The system played a pivotal role in donor coordination and in helping policymakers adjust national priorities to meet challenges. The relatively new functions of the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum were seen as providing relevant platforms for middle-income countries to exchange their development cooperation experiences with other Member States and civil society. Middle-income countries now had more votes in the Bretton Woods institutions: in 2010 the IMF Board of Governors had approved a shift of more than 6 per cent of quota shares to developing countries without lowering the quota shares and voting power of the poorest. However, the weight of the basic vote having declined over the decades, the influence of most middle-income countries, except for the larger ones, had diminished. While cooperative efforts during the crisis had strengthened financial safety nets, concerns remained regarding the sufficiency and composition of international liquidity support and regarding middle-income countries' debt sustainability. The report recommended that the current framework for debt sustainability assessment should be expanded to monitor more disaggregated and higher-frequency data on debt stock, including short-term and domestic debt levels.

17. Certain constraints, perhaps most important among them the lack of a coherent strategic framework, prevented development cooperation from achieving its full potential in middle-income countries. There was much stress on achieving the MDGs, and many middle-income countries had made much progress towards basic human development targets but faced significant development and capacity challenges in other areas. Currently, much of the United Nations' support work was more suited to low-income than to middle-income countries. There were also operational and financing constraints, and there tended to be too limited specialized capacity in country offices. To overcome those limitations, the report recommended a specific policy framework for middle-income countries, in which country teams and resident coordinators should focus more on upstream policy requirements and make more use of capacities of non-resident agencies, account should be taken of the spillover effects of economic development in middle-income countries on that of low-income countries, and the United Nations system should reorient internal planning and coordination and tailor them better to the needs, priorities and decision-making processes of middle-income countries. Member States might wish to consider establishing a high-level panel or ad hoc working group for that purpose. The analysis could be undertaken during the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development.

18. **Ms. Handrujovicz** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the impact of globalization had been uneven and unpredictable. National efforts needed to be accompanied by intensified international cooperation in order to seize the opportunities that globalization created. The Group of 77 believed that the United Nations, as a universal forum, could strengthen international cooperation for development in the context of liberalization, helping developing countries to take full advantage of their potentials for economic growth and development. Coordination within the United Nations system should be strengthened to promote growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

19. The Group believed that each country had primary responsibility for its own development. Managing globalization for the benefit of all was a major challenge, and it was necessary to ensure the right to development, in particular through policy space for developing countries, taking into consideration their unique social, political, economic and environmental conditions.

20. All of the operational activities principles supported by the United Nations system — predictability, universality, progressivity — should be borne in mind, while reaffirming the importance of providing strategic support to all programme countries, including the middle-income and least developed

countries, upon request of the recipient Government, in order to address their specific needs.

21. Despite the successes they had achieved eradicating poverty, many middle-income countries still faced significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. National averages such as per capita income did not usually reflect accurately the actual features and special development needs of diverse middle-income countries. International support had to be well aligned with national priorities to address those needs.

22. On the issue of culture and development, special attention should be paid to preserving diversity, which was the principal wealth of human development. There was a growing consensus that strategies to achieve development goals had to be embedded in the cultural traditions of each society. A culture-sensitive approach to development meant understanding the quantitative and qualitative contribution of culture to development. The Group therefore welcomed UNESCO's support for organizing a high-level conference on culture and development.

23. In an increasingly knowledge-based world economy, access to technology had become a vital component of any viable development strategy. However, restraints on access to technology were a major manifestation of inequality between developed and developing countries. Advances in science and technology and easier access to the latest technologies would help developing countries achieve strides in agriculture, health, energy, trade, water and environmental protection. When managing globalization at the international level, developmental considerations should be in the foreground, in order to ensure that all countries benefited. In that regard, the national development plans and strategies of developing countries deserved particular attention.

24. **Mr. Bairagi** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that globalization was proceeding side by side with marginalization for the LDCs, largely due to entrenched global inequalities and structures generating uneven development. The gap between rich and poor continued to widen, the world economic outlook inspired a widespread fear of a double-dip recession and a sovereign debt crisis loomed in Europe. In some LDCs, economic growth had not correspondingly reduced unemployment and poverty. Many were unable to reap the benefits of trade due to heavy reliance on a few export items and markets, as well as declining terms of trade. The gap between ODA commitments and delivery would probably increase, and country programmable aid to the LDCs would stagnate in 2011 and 2012. The global crisis was adversely affecting remittance flows and debt relief initiatives. Rising food prices would again aggravate hunger and malnutrition. The LDCs were also bearing a disproportionate burden of climate change and wider Internet access and affordability remained a key challenge for them.

25. Globalization should mainstream the poor countries into the world economy and help build their capacity to secure prosperity. At the national level, countries should improve the condition of the poor and pursue a job-oriented macroeconomic policy. At the global level, a supportive international environment must assist countries to enhance their capacity to seize opportunities and minimize risks in managing the development process. As envisaged in the Istanbul Programme of Action, the LCDs' development partners should help them develop human capital, promote work and jobs to address unemployment and institute social protection; they should also fulfil ODA commitments, cancel the debt of LCDs, and develop a predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system; they should also promote technology transfer on favourable terms, to enhance cooperation on migration, and promote greater policy coherence and coordination at the global level to respond to the LCDs' special development challenges.

26. Properly harnessed, science and technology could help build domestic capacity and support rapid poverty eradication and sustainable development. The early establishment of a technology bank would help to build LCDs' capacity for science, technology, innovation and research. The Group called upon its partners to provide enhanced financial and technical support, to arrange for start-up financing for firms in LCDs to invest in new technologies, and to implement article 7 of the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development and UNCTAD were to be commended for their efforts to disseminate knowledge with a view to supporting research and capacity-building in scientific and technological

innovation for sustainable development. The Group called upon the international community to enhance its cooperation and the coordinating role of the United Nations system to minimize the negative impacts of globalization and to make it work for all, including the LCDs. It was critical to ensure the full, timely and effective integration and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by all concerned parties.

27. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the Secretary-General's report on globalization and interdependence acknowledged that the countries of Southeast Asia had seen dramatic poverty reduction due to sustained economic growth, together with investments aimed at achieving the MDGs. ASEAN countries were confident of seeing economic growth of 5.4 per cent to 6.4 per cent in 2011, although risks and challenges remained, notably in regard to job creation. With global unemployment expected to reach 205 million in 2020, and likely to persist, the economic crisis had morphed into a global job crisis. Job creation was vital in order to address persistent inequality. The policies pursued should therefore be pro-growth, pro-jobs and pro-poor, aimed at increasing foreign trade, promoting investment especially in agriculture, rural development and infrastructure, and addressing debt effectively. The United Nations should proactively pursue an enabling international environment favourable to sustained growth. The Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was a coherent framework for shaping strategies to sustain recovery.

28. Guided by the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology, ASEAN aimed to achieve expanded science and technology cooperation with the international community. It believed that new technologies, particularly green technologies, should be affordably available to the developing countries in order to spur economic growth and expedite achievement of the MDGs. ASEAN was concerned that, according to the Secretary-General's report on development cooperation with the middle-income countries, several bilateral donors were downsizing or phasing out assistance to those countries. However, those countries, as part of the developing world, still needed assistance to reach their full potential. Reduced assistance might hamper poverty eradication efforts and slow progress towards sustained, inclusive and equitable global economic growth.

29. **Mr. Gonsalves** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that any discussion of globalization and interdependence had to begin with the global economic and financial crisis. The CARICOM States had neither caused nor contributed to the ill-conceived policies that had led to the crisis, yet they suffered tremendous economic and developmental fallout as a result of regulatory failures and rapacious corporate greed in other countries. They had yet to regain their pre-crisis levels of income, employment or development. Tourism, foreign direct investment and remittances were greatly reduced, with obvious implications for national development and maintenance of social safety nets. Many CARICOM States had had to enter into IMF programmes of varying severity.

30. The Secretary-General's report cast doubt on the alleged benefits of financial globalization. It was incumbent on the General Assembly to play a more robust role in seeking to fulfil the promise of globalization while minimizing its negative impacts. Increasingly, globalization played a critical role in the development of CARICOM States. However, it was not responsive to the needs of those States, and affected them in ways they could not prevent or control. The States and regions that had benefited greatly from globalization should lead in crafting solutions to its negative impacts.

31. While welcoming the Secretary-General's report (A/66/220) on development cooperation with middle-income countries, CARICOM States were disappointed that it did not refer to the fact that the small island developing States in that category were open, vulnerable and heavily indebted, with deep and intractable pockets of poverty, and required assistance from the international community, including debt relief, concessions and assistance specifically tailored to increase economic and developmental space, in order to cope with their situation.

32. In a knowledge-based economy, technological inequality was as great an impediment as income inequality. The United Nations should address the technological gaps and digital divides hampering national development. There was also a need to recognize the threat posed by globalization to the diverse cultures of the world and the creeping hegemony that often imposed standardized rules antithetical to deeply entrenched cultural norms. The

development potential of culture lay in its diversity, not in its standardization. The true measure of globalization was whether it produced tangible improvements in the quality of life and choices available to citizens. The small and vulnerable States of CARICOM had enjoyed some benefits of globalization but, amid deepening crises, were disproportionately burdened by its numerous disadvantages.

33. **Ms. Fotina** (Russian Federation) said that economic development, innovation and modernization were important not only in themselves, but as means of opening up new opportunities for people, leading to improved standards of living, better qualifications, and the abandonment of dangerous and harmful industries, resulting in turn in a better quality of life. The State, business and international organizations must not forget their core social responsibility towards citizens, otherwise social and political issues would overshadow both the economy and growth.

34. Russia pursued a balanced labour market policy, aimed not only at creating and sustaining jobs, but at raising the professional standing of workers by enabling them to acquire the skills most in demand, while modernizing vocational education. Labour and employment issues, and social protection, should be high on the global economic agenda. Russia's Prime Minister had offered to host a high-level international conference in 2012 on ways of implementing the Decent Work Agenda of ILO.

35. Middle-income countries had made great strides in recent years in tackling poverty and achieving economic growth, while making an increasing contribution to global and regional growth and economic stability. Some of them had become donors, rather than recipients, of international aid. However, some of them still needed assistance in dealing with the serious social and economic consequences of persistent poverty and inequality, uneven economic growth and difficulty in meeting the MDGs. More than financial "inflows", what they needed to progress and grow were the structural changes resulting from a diversified economy, together with increased labour productivity and investment in the social sphere and in infrastructure. United Nations organizations could offer them invaluable support through their experience, their expert potential and their networks of country and regional offices. The models of assistance traditionally used in low-income countries did not apply to middle-income countries. The efforts of United Nations system agencies in the latter category of countries should be focused on supporting their Governments in making them independent of development assistance. She requested more detailed information about the aims and methods of the high-level panel or ad hoc working group on development cooperation with middle-income countries proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/66/220, para. 55).

36. With regard to the UNESCO report "Culture and development" (A/66/187), her delegation agreed that cultural issues should be taken into account in development strategies and programmes, as reflected in the World Summit Outcome document and in General Assembly resolution 65/166. Many United Nations system organizations had declared themselves willing to play a part in implementing that resolution. As for holding a United Nations conference on the subject, her delegation would want to know more about the aims, status and format of such a conference.

37. **Mr. Daoud** (Sudan) said that many developing States continued to face obstacles in their development efforts. The food, energy and climate change crises had created urgent humanitarian situations that required effective action on the part of the global trade system. The achievement of fairness in international trade was a common objective based on common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed States should put forward bold proposals which were consistent with their commitments to bring about progress in all aspects of the negotiations, especially the agricultural sector. A practical solution was needed to help developed countries meet all their commitments, to bring about a partnership for development, to ensure the access of developing countries to world markets, to promote transparency and fairness in international trade and to adopt practical modalities to facilitate the accession of developing countries to WTO.

38. **Mr. Wira Haji Idris Bin Haji Haron** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia, a mid-sized economy, had benefited from globalization. Its experience showed that sustained, inclusive and equitable growth was a precondition for facing globalization's negative impacts. Coping with globalization required capacity-building through training and technology transfer, with technology, including information technology and green technology, made available at an affordable price; trade reform, through the conclusion of the Doha Round, to create a more balanced trade environment;

and the creation of an international environment conducive to sustainable and equitable growth, in particular by reforming the international financial system. Malaysia hoped that the United Nations would play a more effective role in ensuring that developed countries adhered to their ODA commitments, following the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities, and ensuring that the LDCs progressed to middle-income status.

39. **Mr. De Almeida** (Brazil) said that as the world grappled with renewed economic turbulence, concerns over security and energy prices, and challenges posed by climate change, there were growing misgivings about the balance of costs and benefits of globalization. However, the expansion of cross-border flows of goods, services, capital, labour, information and technology was an integral part of the modern world. Equitable globalization should contribute to the realization of full human potential, and must therefore be managed carefully. In an interdependent world, global challenges would increasingly require collective action. The G-20 could make a positive contribution, strengthening world economic recovery and laying the foundations for sustained growth. The United Nations should present useful advice on policy questions in economic and financial matters and ensure political cohesion and policy coordination along with IMF, the World Bank and the G-20.

40. The financial crisis had encouraged a growing consensus on the importance of comprehensive social protection measures. Active social policies supported consumption and fostered economic growth. A basic social protection floor could mitigate the negative impacts of globalization for the most vulnerable while helping to break the cycle of poverty.

41. Many middle-income countries had experienced remarkable recovery after the economic and financial crisis. However, they were home to 70 per cent of the world's poor and faced extraordinary development challenges. As a group, they had higher social inequality and economic disparities than other developing countries. Despite their strides towards the MDGs, they were vulnerable to external shocks, and needed international support to help them consolidate development gains. The United Nations system should have a well-defined agenda for them and maintain a comprehensive local field presence in all developing Member States that so desired, including the middle-income countries.

42. Promotion of culture could play a key role in achieving the MDGs. Domestic policies sensitive to local culture would naturally tend to reflect national ownership and leadership priorities, contributing to equitable and balanced results. Brazil welcomed initiatives aimed at raising the profile of culture as an economic sector in its own right, as an intrinsic value and as a defining characteristic of society. Culture must be systematically integrated into national development policies and international assistance initiatives. Globalization could not be effectively managed without taking cultural diversity into account.

43. **Mr. Traoré** (Senegal) said that the shortcomings of globalization were in urgent need of correction. The dysfunctions of the world economy had to be adjusted in order to enable developing countries, especially the LDCs, to achieve the MDGs. That required observance of international commitments concerning the energy, food, environmental, economic and financial challenges.

44. Culture played a vital role in the development agenda. Senegal's experience showed that culture had a positive impact on employment, industry, infrastructure, environment, tourism, job creation and sustainable development. Reaching the MDGs would depend on taking the cultural dimension into account in all development strategies and policies. A high-level conference was needed in order to address issues of culture and development.

45. **Ms. Leshkova** (Belarus) said that some middle-income countries had shown the world's best economic growth rates over the previous decade, yet almost two thirds of the planet's poor lived in countries of that group. The overall success of the MDGs would therefore be measured by the success of the middle-income countries. Just as a sizeable and stable middle class indicated national stability, steady and sustainable development of the middle-income countries would be indicative of general stability in the world.

46. The United Nations needed a consistent approach to interaction with middle-income countries and to the comprehensive assistance they required. Strategies and patterns of cooperation should be developed to combine those countries' needs and national priorities and the capacities of the United Nations system and international financial institutions. Belarus looked forward to discussion of that topic at the first regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board

in 2012, and welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a high-level group or special working group to study challenges and difficulties facing middle-income countries.

47. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that the benefits of globalization had always been unequal, and its costs were borne disproportionately by the poor. Without a coordinated international assistance structure the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, could not withstand the challenges of globalization so as to reap its benefits. Globalization should not be tantamount to imposing conditionalities, nor compel a nation State to refrain from exercising its rights and privileges over its own policy spaces. The international community, particularly the development partners, must pay full respect to the Accra Agenda for Action when disbursing ODA and other development assistance.

48. Since development endeavours without local support were not sustainable, all plans and programmes should recognize the traditions and culture of the local people, with due attention to diversity.

49. In a knowledge-based world, globalization could help to disseminate cutting-edge technology and scientific innovation. However, restraints on access to technology had become a serious problem for developing countries, particularly the LDCs. Transfer of technology on easy and affordable terms for poorer countries was essential. In managing globalization, it was important to ensure that all countries and peoples of the world would profit from it, in order to avoid further disparity in a world already tarnished by division, inequality and exclusion.

50. **Mr. Xie** Xiaowu (China) said that with the MDG deadline nearing, full play should be given to the pivotal role of science and technology in addressing such major issues as food and energy security, climate change, transformation of traditional industries, incubation of new ones, and economic recovery. Developed countries in particular should boost technology transfer and help develop human resources, in the recognition that by doing so they were effectively tackling their own economic crisis and increasing employment.

51. Joint efforts in science and technology should be pursued, especially in fields which by their scale were beyond the capacity of a single country or even a few countries, such as climate change problems, resource shortages, food security, disease control and deep space exploration. The international community should demand that developers of high and new technologies take safety seriously and adopt concrete safety measures when transferring technology to developing countries.

52. Having become the world's second-largest economy, China still lagged behind more than 80 countries in GDP per capita. Its development was still unbalanced, with gaps between coastal and inland regions, urban and rural areas, and high and low income groups. China still had a large poverty-stricken population. Nevertheless, China remained committed to providing technical assistance to developing countries to the best of its ability. It had established the China-Africa Science and Technology Partnership Programme (CASTEP) and would continue to carry out scientific and technological cooperation and build partnerships that produced mutual benefit and common development.

53. **Mr. Chiquihuara** (Peru) said that middle-income countries played a catalytic role in South-South cooperation and in promoting equitable and sustainable growth of the world economy, but they still faced major challenges in poverty, health, education and climate change. It was therefore vital for developed countries to intensify their ODA and for international financial institutions to step up efforts to support those countries' initiatives through technical cooperation, transfer of technology and capacity-building, taking into account their national policies. Observance of the principles of predictability, progressivity and universality of United Nations support to developing countries was fundamental.

54. Among the middle-income countries, those with the highest degree of inequality were to be found in Latin America. Inequality had a negative impact on human development, and the United Nations should therefore not continue to use per capita GDP as its main measure of development, since that indicator concealed large inequalities and did not reflect such factors as geographical distribution of income that had a clear socio-economic impact and were factored into human development indices. The criteria for classification of countries must be made more responsive to development needs.

55. Cultural diversity was an important cross-cutting element in human development, and a key to national empowerment through the creation of sustainable,

dynamic and innovative cultural industries by integration of the cultural dimension into all levels and strategies of development. There was a need for mechanisms to promote culture, and for international cooperation in preventing the unlawful appropriation of cultural heritage and cultural products. The links between cultural diversity and biological diversity must be recognized, and local indigenous knowledge and traditions preserved as valuable examples of the role of culture as a vehicle of environmental sustainability and sustainable development.

56. **Mr. Govrin** (Israel) said that scientific and technological progress had driven Israel's rapid evolution from a fledgling agricultural society to a high-tech powerhouse with more start-up companies, patents and Nobel prizes in science per capita than any other country in the world. Israel had recently become an associate member of the European Centre for Nuclear Research, despite ongoing attempts at boycotting scientific cooperation with Israel. Science and technology determined the ability to provide adequate infrastructure, good health care, clean water and safe food. A small country poor in natural resources, Israel had had to tackle problems such as water scarcity and desertification by developing sophisticated agricultural techniques, making optimal use of scarce water, harsh land and a limited labour force. One highly successful project, Techno-agriculture Innovation for Poverty Alleviation (TIPA), which had been implemented by MASHAV — Israel's international development agency — in a number of African countries, relied on simple, low-cost drip irrigation to enable farmers to produce crops year-round and improve crop quality. In the medical field, Israel had recently developed a mobile-phone-based imaging application which enabled malaria to be diagnosed in the field by using a special lens to look for the pigment that the malaria parasite generated when it digested red blood cells. That technology would be welcome in Africa, where 1,900 children under five died from malaria each day.

57. For long-term goals to be achieved and growth to become sustainable, developing countries needed to develop their own capabilities in science, technology and innovation. Beyond assistance, the focus should be on capacity-building, education and transfer of skills. The draft resolution on agricultural technology for development, which Israel would bring to the Second Committee for the third time, embodied that important idea. By calling for the transfer of sustainable agricultural technologies and knowledge that could be easily assimilated by local farmers, the resolution ensured sustainable agricultural productivity which would continue to yield successful development outcomes.

58. **Ms. Nujoma** (Namibia) said that globalization brought new opportunities for sustained economic growth, but its benefits had not been equally shared; rapid changes had been accompanied by intensified poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. Economic disparities within and among same countries were on the increase.

59. The use of per capita income as a measure of development disregarded the diversity of the middle-income countries, whose high growth volatility and high income inequality were impediments to development. Development cooperation should therefore be geared to adjusting the intensity of aid to the specific needs of each stage, and ensuring that countries which graduated to the middle-income category did not slide back. Their economic advancement was an essential ingredient of broader regional stability, yet their growth had frequently collapsed, putting strains on democratic governance. The number of people living in extreme poverty in the 18 middle-income countries of sub-Saharan Africa had grown by over 32 million since the early 1990s. Clearly, development assistance to Africa should be a priority and aid to the poorest countries should not divert attention from the middle-income countries. Aid effectiveness depended crucially on giving recipient countries ownership of development strategies. The international community should therefore join forces to provide financial support that was predictable, flexible and substantial.

60. Few developing countries had wide access to international capital markets. The best way to speed development of middle-income countries was to support their efforts to develop technology and research capacities. To that end, investments in infrastructure and energy were vital. As several bilateral donors were downsizing or phasing out development assistance to middle-income countries, the United Nations should strengthen its role in those countries to ensure that their hard-won gains were preserved.

61. **Ms. Osoba** (Nigeria) said that her delegation attached utmost importance to full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption with regard to mutual legal assistance.

62. Globalization must strive to strengthen common values and boost local development, taking into account traditions, culture and the identity of the people. Diversity, the principal wealth of human development, must be preserved. Nigeria supported the "Creative Africa Initiative" launched to showcase the richness of African culture.

63. Financial globalization had been expected to move capital from developed to developing economies. The reverse had taken place, and extreme boom and bust cycles had greatly reduced income. Moreover, industrialized nations had taken advantage of trade liberalization to dump cheap manufactured goods, rendering local industries inefficient and leading to slow growth, low capacity utilization and low output.

64. Nigeria was relaxing capital controls which posed a significant obstacle to foreign direct investment and participating actively in the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development. It supported implementation of the Scientific and Technical Exchange Programme aimed at reversing the brain drain in Africa and had strongly advocated exchange of expertise through South-South cooperation and requested more support for creating the South-South Global Asset and Technologies Exchange project.

65. The international community should provide support to a fair and more equitable globalization for all by helping developing countries to increase their capacity to manage their respective development processes and to build human capital. Nigeria urged UNCTAD to continue to implement science, technology and innovation policy reviews in developing countries, while ensuring that innovative mechanisms were adapted to the specific context of developing countries.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.